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Lane County Oregon FSA Updates

Lane County FSA Office

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Lane County Committee:

Harry McIntire, Chair
Bart Edwards, Vice-Chair
Gary Smith
Maryrae Thomson

Farm Loan Manager:

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Next County Committee Meeting:

May 21, 2014 9:00am

GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed Bug

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. **Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.**

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE APPROACHING

With the 2014 Farm Bill passed, and anticipation of 2014 programs being released later this year, it is important to timely complete the Acreage Reporting requirement now. We understand that many of you are unsure if you would like to continue to participate, but we encourage you to timely file your acreage report in order to alleviate late-file fees or program eligibility issues in the future.

After spring and summer plantings, producers should certify their 2014 acreage by **July 15, 2014.**

To schedule an appointment please contact our office at 541.465.6443 Ext 2 or e-mail us.

NATIVE GRASS FORAGE LOSSES DUE TO DROUGHT MAY NOW BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION

Native Grass pastures have been added as eligible grazing for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program due to the Secretarial Drought Disaster Designation for Lane County. In addition to the previously announced designation of Improved Grass Pastures, eligible livestock that grazed or were intended to graze Native grass pastures in Lane County as of March 15, 2014 may be eligible for compensation. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, [click here](#), Lane County suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks starting March 1, 2014, the beginning of the Improved Pasture grazing season. Native Pasture grazing season began March 15, 2014.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) can provide payments to eligible producers for livestock grazing losses due to drought. If a producer had livestock grazing on or intended to graze on **non-irrigated improved pastures** in Lane County sometime during the period of March 1, 2014 through April 25, 2014 and/or if a producer had livestock grazing on or intended to graze on **non-irrigated native pastures** in Lane County sometime during the period of March 15, 2014 through May 9, 2014, you may be eligible for compensation.

2014 Livestock Payment rates:

- \$52.56/head for adult beef cattle
- \$39.42/head for non-adult (500# or more) beef or dairy cattle
- \$136.66/head for adult dairy cattle
- \$13.14/head for sheep and goats

In preparation for making an LFP application, producers should compile data including, but not limited to: legal descriptions where eligible livestock were grazing, dates when grazing occurred on eligible improved pasture land and number/type of livestock grazing. Producers will also be required to file an acreage report if one has not already been certified and provide a lease for rented land.

Producers who have experienced losses are urged to call or e-mail our office for an appointment to determine if you might be eligible. 541.465.6443 X2 or jean.larkin@or.usda.gov.

For more information regarding this program, please click [here](#).

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

In addition to the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) listed above eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program

year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

NEW FARM BILL OFFERS INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCERS

The 2014 Farm Bill offers increased opportunities for producers including farm loan program modifications that create flexibility for new and existing farmers. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is available [here](#).

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan Program from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guaranteed percentage on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward direct operating loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the [FSA Farm Bill website](#) for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For FSA Service Center contact information anywhere in the nation, please visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).